

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/244,270

Examiner

Michelle K. Lay

Applicant(s)

YUE ET AL.

Art Unit

2628

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 6-29-06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2 and 14-43.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Christopher J. Reckamp (34,414) on 04 January 2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 28 (currently amended): A method, comprising:

- (a) receiving a pixel tile containing vertex position data for a plurality of primitives;
- (b) sorting the primitives in axis-dependent order;
- (c) determining whether the sorted primitives are positioned within a current tile to be transmitted to a rasterizer; ~~and~~
- (d) determining an initial rasterization point that is within the current tile within the sorted primitive[[]]; and
- (e) discarding the sorted vertex data of primitives that lie outside the boundary of the current tile being rendered.

Claim 35 (currently amended): The method of Claim 28, wherein the position data includes x-coordinate and y-coordinate position data and the position determination step (c) further comprises:

(c1) comparing the x-coordinate position data with the corresponding coordinate position data of the current tile; and

wherein discarding comprises:

(c2) discarding the primitive when the x-coordinate position is greater than the largest corresponding coordinate position of the current tile.

Claim 36 (currently amended): The method of Claim 28, wherein the position data includes x-coordinate and any y-coordinate position data and the position determination step (c) further comprises:

(c3) comparing the x-coordinate position data with the corresponding coordinate position data of the current tiles; and

wherein discarding comprises:

(c4) discarding the primitive when the x-coordinate position is less than the smallest corresponding coordinate position of the current tile.

Claim 37 (currently amended): The method of Claim 28, wherein the position data includes x-coordinate and y-coordinate position data and the position determination step (c) further comprises:

Art Unit: 2628

(c5) comparing the y-coordinate position data with the corresponding coordinate position data of the current tile; and

wherein discarding comprises:

(c6) discarding the primitive when the y-coordinate position is greater than the largest corresponding coordinate position of the current tile.

Claim 38 (currently amended): The method of Claim 28, wherein the position data includes x-coordinate and y-coordinate position data and the position determination step (c) further comprises:

(c7) comparing the y-coordinate position data with the corresponding coordinate position data of the current tile; and

wherein discarding comprises:

(c8) discarding the primitive when the y-coordinate position is less than the smallest corresponding coordinate position of the current tile.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Duluk, Jr. et al. (6,597,363 B1) teaches the limitations of the claimed invention but fails to teach having the initial rasterization starting point estimate always within the current tile.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

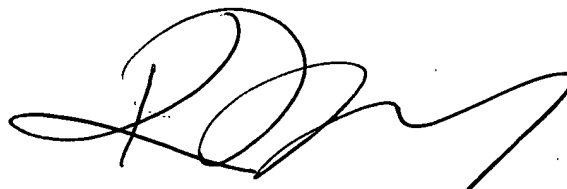
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michelle K. Lay whose telephone number is (571) 272-7661. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:30a-5p.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kee M. Tung can be reached on (571) 272-7794. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Michelle K. Lay
Patent Examiner
Division 2628
01.04.2007 mkl

Michelle K. Lay
Patent Examiner



KEE M. TUNG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER